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I'm worried that I won't do well in my classes. Is it going to be more difficult than elementary school?

The work you do in Grade 9 will build on what you already learned in Grade 8. Take classes that interest you so you stay focused. If you don't understand something, ask the teacher or someone else in the class. Don't be shy about asking, since there are probably other people in the class who are wondering the same thing.

I heard there will be lots of homework. How will I ever get it done?

In high school, you should expect to have some homework every night. You could be working on assignments or studying for tests. Use your student planner to keep track of when your assignments are due, and get started on them early. A good way to get ready for high school homework is to develop some good study habits now.

"I like high school because it's a safe place where everyone can express themselves."



Leelo, Grade 9

"Since I've come to high school, I'm more confident, more social, and I feel like the sky's the limit."



Faizan, Grade 9

"I've been open to a lot more things and exploring all my interests."



Duan, Grade 9

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576 Ridge Road, Ridgeman
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

PORT COLBORNE HIGH SCHOOL

211 Elgin Street, Port Colborne
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

GRIMSBY/LINCOLN

SOUTH LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

260 Crenborough St., Smithville
Thursday, January 17, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

GRIMSBY SECONDARY SCHOOL

5 Boulton Avenue, Grimsby
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

BEAMSVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

4317 Central Avenue, Beamsville
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2013

Eat out

Barbecue fundraiser planned
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Take control

Wynne has plans for communities
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Busy first half

Wainfleet's Jeffs looks at first two years
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Happy place

Port Colborne progressing nicely
Page 12

INPORT NEWS



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COURT Fire-bomb victim is acquitted

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort Staff

WELLAND — Canadians' right to protect themselves and their property was upheld in a Welland courtroom last Thursday, as Ian Thomson was acquitted of all charges against him in a case dating back more than two years.

"I'm somewhat relieved,

but it still hasn't sunk in," said Thomson.

The Port Colborne man had been facing a count of careless use of a firearm and one count of pointing a firearm from an incident on Aug. 22, 2010, when he fired shots to ward off three men who were attempting to firebomb his home.

see COURT | page 2



In this January 2012 file photo, Ian Thomson, left, and his lawyer Ed Burlew walk out of the Welland courthouse after the first day of his trial. Thomson was acquitted of all charges on Thursday.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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upfront

■ COURT

Conviction could have meant prison sentence

FROM PAGE 1

While those charges were dismissed early on, Niagara Regional Police charged him with two counts of careless storage of firearms, charges which could have seen him sent to prison for a few years if convicted.

In an interview with Sun News Network, Thomson said he had no option but to protect himself when the men, who were sentenced to prison in early December, threw a number of Molotov cocktails at his Snider Rd. home.



I knew as soon as I used a firearm to protect my life that charges would be laid. The Crown seemed to have an agenda to make an example of me."

Ian Thomson

The former firearms instructor told Sun News's Brian Lilley that all of his guns were legally-owned.

"I wasn't surprised ... I knew as soon as I used a firearm to protect my life that charges would be laid," he told Lilley on Friday morning. "The Crown seemed to have an agenda to make an example of me and to put the fear into every firearms owner in Canada that you're not allowed to defend your life in circumstances like I faced."

Thomson wanted to thank supporters who showed up for his trial and those who have contributed to his legal defence fund.

"There were people from all over Niagara and Canada that came to court," he told *The Tribune*.

THE EVENTS

Aug. 22, 2010: Thomson's Port Colborne home is attacked by four assailants launching Molotov cocktails and uttering death threats. Inside the home at the time, Thomson fires three shots to ward off the attackers.

Aug. 23, 2010: Niagara Regional Police charge Thomson with careless use of a firearm.

November 2010: Niagara Regional Police and the Crown attorney's office lay three additional firearms charges against Thomson relating to the August incident.

December 2010: Two men are arrested in connection with the incident. Randy Weaver, of Port Colborne, and Justin Lee, of Welland, were each charged with arson disregard for human life. Two additional men are later charged in relation to the incident — Richard Coulthart, of Welland, and Michael Theberge, of Port Colborne.

March 2, 2011: A peaceful protest is held outside of the Welland courthouse in support of Thomson as he returns to court. Two charges against Thomson are dropped by the Crown.

Jan. 30, 2012: Thomson's trial for the remaining firearms charges begins in a Welland courtroom. After two days, the trial is adjourned to May and then again adjourned to October.

Oct. 25, 2012: Judge Tory Colvin requires more time to review submissions on the case and adjourns to Jan. 3, 2013.

Dec. 3, 2012: The four accused in the firebombing of Thomson's home are sentenced in St. Catharines court.

Jan. 3, 2013: Thomson acquitted on all four counts, which include the two previously dropped charges. The Crown has 30 days to appeal.

Though acquitted by Judge Tory Colvin, whose judgment was rendered in a half-hour-long decision, Thomson and his lawyer Ed Burlew, Canada's top gun specialty lawyer, both said the Crown could appeal the decision.

"The Crown will look it over and figure out what its next step will be," said Burlew on Friday.

"It was an excellent decision and I don't think there were any errors in law ... there's

nothing to me that I would see as constituting grounds to appeal," the Thornhill-based lawyer said.

Burlew said the judge found Thomson had his guns safely stored in a steel locker and that the ammunition, which was stored in his bedroom, was not readily accessible to the guns.

Crown attorney Bob Mahler had made an issue of the ammunition and how accessible it was and the gun was to Thomson during the final stages of the trial in



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

In this January 2012 file photo, Ian Thomson leaves the Welland courthouse after the second day of his trial on two counts of careless storage of firearms. Thomson was acquitted of all charges on Jan. 3.

March 2011.

Burlew said Thomson had to get the key to his gun safe from a hidden location, unlock the safe and get the gun: "It was never easily accessible."

Colvin, the lawyer said, also relied heavily on video surveillance of the attack on Thomson's home during his decision.

"The external video was a very important part of the

acquittal," said Burlew.

If an appeal is granted, Thomson told Sun News Network he's not going to quit.

"I did not break the law, I did nothing wrong," he said, adding the Crown misinterpreted the law.

Burlew said his client is looking forward to enjoying a normalized life in his home and is glad the ordeal is over.

"He was determined ... he

knew he was innocent and was steadfast in maintaining that. We were confident this (the acquittal) would occur. The law was clear."

As for Thomson's guns, seized by police when he was charged, Burlew said it was no appeal then the firearms and other items taken will be returned.

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portraits

■ **COMMUNITY:** Fundraiser for 5-year-old Jason Bekker-Thompson and family

Barbecue to aid young leukemia patient

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When disease strikes a family it can devastate more than hearts and souls.

It can also drain bank accounts.



Supplied photo
Jason Bekker-Thompson.

When Jack O'Neil found out five-year-old Jason Bekker-Thompson was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia in November he immediately thought of his own grandchildren and how awful it would feel watching them suffer and fight to survive.

"People need help and we're a community of helping people," O'Neil said. "I know if I were in that situation people would help me — so we're not in that situation this time, but we're going to help."

So, when the rumble in your stomach starts nagging tonight, grab a bite and give Jason's family a hand at the same time.

Friends of the Thompson family, O'Neil, Brenda Haines and John O'Neil, plan to have a bar-



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Jack O'Neil and other volunteers will host a fundraiser for five-year-old Jason Bekker-Thompson, who was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia in November. The barbecue luncheon will be at Port Colborne Hospital Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

becue luncheon at Port Colborne hospital from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to help raise funds for the family's expenses related to Jason's care.

"We just want to help them get through this trying time and hopefully get Jason through this and home safe," O'Neil said.

"We hope everything can come around and he'll have a full life ahead of him."

O'Neil will barbecue outside the hospital through any weather conditions.

Seating is available in the hospital's cafeteria, where volunteers will

serve hamburgers for \$3 and hotdogs for \$2.

Two-dollar raffle tickets will be sold for two sets of tickets to see a Niagara IceDogs hockey game and a 50/50 draw tickets will be sold for \$1 each.

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Twitter: @VixeyG



People need help and we're a community of helping people. I know if I were in that situation people would help me — so we're not in that situation this time, but we're going to help."

Jack O'Neil

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■ ourview

Ontario facing its own fiscal cliff

Ontario needs its own Tea Party. Such an addition to the political spectrum, however, would have to be a homegrown version, since the American one is too, well, too American.

We can do without the extreme rhetoric, intransigence, lack of willingness to listen and neurotic aversion to compromise.

The Tea parties south of the border are up in arms about the real deal in Washington to keep the country from going over the fiscal cliff.

The entire world watched with fascination and disbelief the negotiations leading up to that deal — how could any group of legislators be so stubborn — cheering on the participants who finally succeeded in reaching a deal to keep the U.S. and the rest of the world out of a new recession, at least for the moment.

The Tea Party is unhappy because the deal didn't include any meaningful cuts to government spending.

That, of course, is the issue that plagues Ontario. The province is in desperate need of a strong dedication to expense cuts, although we can be excused if we want something more moderate that the U.S. Tea Party's maniacal devotion to that cause.

Ontario's looming debt crisis has us travelling down the same path as Greece. And you don't have to take my word for that.

Last October, a Canadian think-tank said a European-style debt crisis could happen in a government such as Ontario's unless the province changes the long-term direction of its finances.

Ontario's debt now has more than doubled to more than \$250 billion since Premier Dalton McGuinty came to power and it continues to grow at the rate of some \$13 billion a year.

The out-of-control spending was evident in the last provincial election, but Ontario residents decided to return the Liberals to power, albeit minorly reduced in power.

Which is another reason the province needs its own version of the Tea Party. Voters must be made aware of these unconscionable debt levels and the fact they could be leading us over our own debt cliff.

Polls tell us the most popular political leader in the province is Andrew Horwath.

A savvy politician, Horwath has one monkey on her back — she leads the NDP, a party that has never shown much interest in spending controls.

Which brings us back around to the need for a Tea Party to keep excess spending top of mind for both politicians and voters.

Without such an organization to push us all, there is little evidence that the province's debt levels will be taken seriously anytime soon.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Morgan's Point and Forks Road United churches

It was likely the latest on Christmas Day that we have ever done it — well past 2 in the afternoon.

I'm not complaining, mind you. After leading two Christmas Eve services, driving 200 km to my sister's place, arriving at midnight, then visiting for nearly two hours before hitting the hay, this just-turned 55-year-old body did not mind the opportunity to sleep in one bit.

And when we did wake up around 9, we got busy preparing for the Christmas Lunch which needed to be served by noon when my parents would join us. By the time we finished eating, it was almost 2 p.m.

That's when someone brought up the gifts. Ah, the gifts! Yes, let's open gifts! The youngest in the house being a mature 12-year-old female may have had something to do with the tardiness.

That coupled with the fact that most of us knew pretty much what we were getting for Christmas.

For some it would be cash and gift cards. For the rest of us, it would be one of the items on the lists we had submitted well in advance.

In other words, there was very little

suspense to keep us guessing. Not a whole lot of surprise to build up the anticipation.

Again, I'm not complaining, just reporting the facts.

However, I couldn't help but wonder whether our experience on Christmas Day mirrors that of many of us in the Church.

Have we lost the wonder, the expectancy and the surprise of the first Christmas?

Do our celebrations become so wrapped up in the expected that there is no more room for expectancy?

Do we get too caught up in worrying about all the preparations that we have lost the wonder of it all?

Do our gifts of most desired items to our loved ones mask the magnitude of the Gift that gave us those who least deserved it? (Romans 5:6-8)

Have we pastors contributed to it by making our Christmas services too predictable?

I wonder.

Makes me realize why Jesus said: "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

Granted, Jesus was talking about humbling oneself and repenting in order to simply enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

But we cannot ignore the fact that

children approach everything in life, especially Christmas, with a sense of wonder and expectancy.

Even though they have written their "Dear Santa" letters already, there is still an element of surprise that makes them anticipate what will await them on Christmas morning.

Thus, I cannot help but ask the question: "Do we need to repent of our lack of wonder, expectancy and surprise — not just when it comes to Christmas, but with our entire Christian walk?"

Do we wake up every morning eager to see how God would show up that day?

When we spend time reading His word, do we expect Him to catch us off guard with a surprising revelation?

As we offer our prayers, do we dictate how God should answer them or do we submit to His ways, no matter how offbeat they may be?

When we go to church, do we expect to sit in a comfortable pew, follow the same old format, enjoy the familiar songs and the predictable message or do we hope and pray that God will encounter us in a powerful way that rocks our boat?

Food for thought, eh?

Please pray this with me — if you dare: "Lord, I repent. I become as a little child. Let me never stop expecting surprises from you. May I never lose your sense of wonder. In Jesus' name. Amen."

■ PORT COLBORNE NEW YEAR'S LEVEE: Mayor welcomes community to discuss year to come

Health, economy, infrastructure top 2013 priorities

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Health care will remain the top priority for Vance Badawey in the year to come.

During a New Year's Levee held at city hall, Sunday, Badawey discussed health care and other priorities with residents who stopped in to visit.



We need to ensure that the world knows why we do business in Niagara."

Mayor Vance Badawey

"We're really encephalic in the last three or four years, community-based primary health care," he said.

During that time, he said the introduction of Bridges Community Health Center, a virtual family health team, an interim professional care team, and other initiatives have enhanced the delivery of medical services for residents, and that's something he intends to continue in the



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo
Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey invited the community to city hall Sunday for his New Year's Levee, including Rose Archer.

year to come.

At the same time, he said the city will continue its focus on establishing "critical care pathways" to ensure that people in need of medical care won't have to travel hours away to get it.

He said that change can be made by enhancing the city's relationship with Kaleida Health in Buffalo.

"They can simply be taken across the border, especially for those that have cardiac (illness) or stroke, or things of that

nature. They can be taken over the border in 25 minutes and be dealt with at a world renowned centre over at Buffalo General."

The economy is another major priority for the city, he added.

"We put in place a very robust economic strategy regionally as well as locally," he said, referring to the Niagara Gateway Economic Zone.

"With that now in place, now it's time to give it legs and put it into action," he said. "A lot of it's branding and marketing, and from there we need to ensure that the world knows why we do business in Niagara."

Meanwhile, he said the city's focus on infrastructure will continue as well.

"We'll be continuing to invest in our community, and with that said, we'll be ensuring that our affordability strategy aligns with it," he said.

The city is currently going through an audit of the services it offers, to take another look at the services it should continue to provide.

"And that services audit is really going into the stage to ensure that our taxpayer affordability strategy is implemented sooner rather than later."

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■ WAINFLEET NEW YEAR'S LEVEE: About 12 Christmas trees burned



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Wainfleet volunteer firefighters Adrian Taylor, left, and Shawn Schutten tend to a pile of burning Christmas trees during the township's New Year's levee Saturday.

"We are mighty"

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — While looking forward to a prosperous 2013, the township also faces challenges in the year ahead.

With the assistance of the township's volunteer firefighters, Wainfleet's Mayor April Jeffs held the second annual Christmas Tree burning event as part of the her New Year's Levee.

About 30 people gathered to enjoy coffee, hot chocolate and donuts, as about a dozen Christmas trees were piled up behind Wainfleet arena. Jeffs tossed a lit torch among them sparking the fire.

Jeffs said 2012 was "definitely an interesting year for our council."
"We had a lot of issues we were dealing with are kind of carrying on into 2013, but I know we are very united and we get a lot of support from our community. We really do and we really appreciate that," she said.

And in the year to come, she hopes some of those issues can be resolved.

"The septic (inspection) program will be underway, and we know about the lawsuit. I'm hoping all of that will pan out as the year progresses and we have a lot of great things accomplished," she said, referring to the township's plan to resolve the contaminated groundwater issue, as well as the lawsuit filed against the township challenging its bylaw regulating where wind turbines can be built.

She said Wainfleet residents and aldermen don't always agree on issues, but "at the end of the day we come together as a really strong community."

"Even though we are small, we are mighty," she added.

For now, however, she hopes Wainfleet residents can spend time skating on the Feeder Canal.

"I saw some kids skating out there today," she added.

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Wynne says municipalities need more control over green projects

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

TORONTO — Kathleen Wynne wants municipalities to have more control over green energy projects.

The provincial Liberal leadership candidate released her plan last week to support Ontario communities and enable them to prosper, including her intentions regarding the renewable energy sector.

"We need to move forward with our clean energy agenda in a thoughtful and collaborative way," Wynne said during a media teleconference to outline her plan.

"I know that we didn't get it perfect the first time around, but I will work with partners and communities across the province to get it right," she said.

"That means increased municipal autonomy and local control on the siting of green energy infrastructure."

Wynne called it necessary to ensure "we have willing hosts" when it comes to both energy and gaming infrastructure projects. She believes Ontario's Ministry of Energy has already begun the process by putting in a requests for proposals process for host sites.

"That's a good start," she said, but while adding the government must also look at how it can "get better community buy-in."

"I think the communities have ideas on how they would like to see the process work better," she said, calling for further input from municipalities on how projects should be located.

These potential changes, Wynne stressed, do not mean there will be 100% consensus in communities receiving these projects, as there will likely con-



tinue to be "controversial aspects and discussions."

But as the Green Energy Act was implemented to "jump start" the field, Ontario's long-term energy plans need to be reviewed.

Wynne would like to see any factors in the act that may have "contributed to community conflict" addressed, while still moving forward to "build a modern, reliable and stable clean energy system."

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Donation enough to equip six Wainfleet players

Firefighters help minor hockey

SARAH FERGIUSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Thanks to Wainfleet Township volunteer firefighters, some children will have the opportunity to play hockey this season.

The volunteer firefighters sponsored six players participating in the Wainfleet Minor Hockey Association's tyke program. Through fundraising initiatives, the volunteers have given \$1,500 to the minor hockey association.

"It's enough money to outfit each of the kids with the equipment they need to keep it safe," volunteer firefighter Jason Mous said.

He said various other sports and recreation programs, including figure skating and soccer, are supported by volunteer firefighters in Wainfleet.

Mous added that sponsoring sports programs to help children who wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to play is important because it teaches children sportsmanship and allows them to make friends.

"If it wasn't for hockey, I wouldn't have some of the friends that I have. We still play hockey today," Mous said.

Volunteer firefighter Matt Devries said the Wainfleet Fire Department would like to thank the community in their fundraising efforts, which included a public skate held Dec. 16 to collect non-perishable food items and toys. About 150 attended, which helped to fill 18 food baskets given to families in need this holiday season.

Daryl Brown, the hockey association's development program co-ordinator, said Wainfleet minor hockey appreciates the long-time support of the volunteer firefighters.

WYNNE'S PLANS FOR COMMUNITIES

Continued infrastructure investment in roads, bridges and public transit.

Consultation with mayors and municipal leaders to ensure Ontario's infrastructure blueprints, Places to Grow and Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, are on the right track.

Increase of local control on the siting of energy and OLG infrastructure.

Work with the Rural Ontario Municipalities

Association to review the fact that some small municipalities, because of their size, are carrying too much of the burden for provincially mandated programs.



Wynne

Develop a regional and community transportation

strategy to support improvement of transportation between and within rural and northern communities.

Call on the federal government to commit to a national transit strategy with a dedicated transit fund that includes investment for smaller communities.

To read Wynne's full plan, The Way We Move Forward, visit www.kathleenwynne.ca/the-way.

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Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopic "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eye care. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.



"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery" says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive lasik surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery." Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical factors of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we have the WaveLight Allegretto platform but we are increasingly shifting to the Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereovision. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America."



To obtain additional information or to book your **FREE** consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217

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EFFECTIVE JANUARY 21, 2013

Port Colborne East Community Route 1 Change

Current Routing: City Hall, east on Charlotte; left onto King St.; right onto Main St. (Hwy. 3) cross bridge; left onto Dolphin; right onto Willard; right onto Wellington; right onto Main; left onto Dolphin; left onto Chestnut; right onto Humboldt; right onto Crescent; left onto Janet; left onto Killaly east; right onto McCrae; left onto Cross St.; right onto Lincoln; right onto Johnston; left onto Elizabeth; right onto Colborne St.; left onto McCrae; right onto Fraser; left onto Mitchell; right onto Nickel; left onto Fares; left onto Killaly east; left onto Welland St.; right onto Clarence; across bridge; left onto King St.; right onto Kent St.; right onto Catharine St.; right onto Charlotte, stop at City Hall

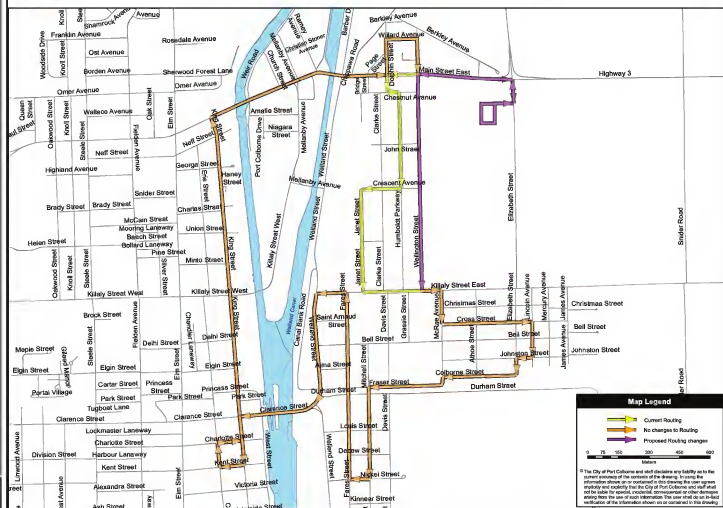
Proposed Routing: City Hall, east on Charlotte; left onto King St.; right onto Main St. (Hwy. 3) cross bridge; left onto Dolphin; right onto Willard; right onto Wellington; left

onto Main St.; right onto Elizabeth; right into Vale Health and Wellness Complex; left out of Complex onto Elizabeth; left onto Main St. left onto Wellington; left onto Killaly St. East; then continue regular routing; right onto McCrae; left onto Cross St.; right onto Lincoln; right onto Johnston; left onto Elizabeth; right onto Colborne St.; left onto McCrae; right onto Fraser; left onto Mitchell; right onto Nickel; right onto Fares; left onto Killaly east; left onto Welland St.; right onto Clarence; across bridge; left onto King St.; right onto Kent St.; right onto Catharine St.; right onto Charlotte, stop at City Hall

These proposed changes provide access and service to the Vale Health and Wellness Centre Complex, and minimizes the impact of the changes on the existing route.



Port Colborne East Community Route 1 Change



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■ **MID-TERM INTERVIEW:** April Jeffs says she's listening to residents' concerns

Lawsuit, beach access faced by Wainfleet mayor

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Roadwork, the Big Pipe, arena work, septic system inspection program, wind turbines and solar power

— some of the issues tackled by Wainfleet council in the first half of this four-year term.

And Mayor April Jeffs says there's still plenty more to take on.

"It's been quite the past

couple of years," said the mayor who was elected with three other rookie politicians in fall 2010.

Ald. Ted Hessels served a term before becoming the only re-elected councillor.

Jeffs says the Big Pipe — a water and sewer servicing plan for the lakeshore put forth by Niagara Region — was the first big issue tackled by her council, and that led to the septic system inspection program

which should get underway this spring.

Wind turbines popped up midway through the first year and has grown to be one of the biggest issues council is dealing with.

Wainfleet passed a moratorium on the construction of wind turbine farms in the township and also passed a two-kilometre setback from residential properties on the turbines. Both moves though hold no weight as the province's Green Energy Act supercedes any decision or bylaw passed by council.

The township is being sued over its setback bylaw and it will be before the courts this year.

Jeffs says council is not opposed to green energy, but it has concerns about wind turbines, including health and safety issues.

"People in the community have grave concerns they want to see addressed before the turbines go in."

It's council's job, she says, to listen to what residents have to say on the issue. She keeps hearing from people concerned over possible property devaluation from the installation of turbines nearby.

"We're doing the right thing. How can we welcome something into the community with so many unanswered questions."

Matters pertaining to Wainfleet Arena and fire and building code violations popped up pathway through the term.

Jeffs says council had gone after funding to possibly refurbish the arena, but was unsuccessful. Council was able, however, to bring in fire separation costs \$40,000 under budget and that work was enough to allow the arena to open.

The mayor says the work will last for quite a while, and in the meantime, council will continue to put money in a reserve for the arena.

Recreation is an area the mayor would like to focus more on in the next two years of council's term.

"Personally, as mayor, I'd love to see a skatepark for the kids. It doesn't have to be to the scale that Port Colborne's is. The kids in Wainfleet just want somewhere to go."

Jeffs says with the mayor's youth council already working on it, it can be an achievable goal.

Beach access and use is another issue she sees being addressed over the next two years. It's actually an ongoing issue, says the mayor, that seems to be improving.

"We want a balance between people who want to use our beaches and the residents who live beside them."

This past year, council put a security guard at Augustine Beach to curb activities such as drinking on the beach, and things seemed to have improved there.

The lakeshore is a valuable asset, we hear it time and time again."



Jeffs

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■ CANINE WATER RESCUE

Molly's owners grateful as pet recovering from plunge

MARYANNE FIRTH
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Molly made it home in time to ring in the new year with her family.

It was a close call for the friendly dog who fell through the ice and into the freezing waters of the Welland River.

Both Wainfleet and Haldimand County fire depart-

ments were called in to rescue the canine, which spent about two hours struggling in the icy waters before she was pulled out. Molly had been chasing geese before slipping into the waterway at the Chippawa Creek Conservation Area along Creek Rd.

Though the initial emergency call, made by Molly's owner with the help of bystander Kimberly Robb,

was made at 12:30 p.m., emergency crews had to wait for the arrival of specially trained and equipped members of Haldimand County Fire Department's Water and Ice Rescue program.

Molly was pulled from the water using an inflatable rescue boat at about 2:15 p.m. She was taken to Dunnville Veterinary Clinic, where she remained overnight.

On Monday morning, Molly returned home, though she's not yet out of the woods.

She's on several medications to combat effects of hypothermia and must undergo further testing next week, said Liz Skene, a family member speaking on behalf of the dog's owners.

"She seems to be recovering," Skene said, calling it a "miracle" that Molly survived

after two hours in the water's chilling temperatures.

"She is so loved in our home and we're so grateful that we still have her here with us."

Molly's owners, the Knight family, asked for privacy but wished to send out a heartfelt thank you to all who assisted in her rescue.

"Heroes are our ordinary every day individuals who

respond with acts of compassion to the crisis or situation at hand," they wrote in an e-mail.

"Kimberly Robb was the first hero, who assisted with encouragement, cellphone, and who stayed from beginning to end. No matter how great or small the emergency, our fire department heroes continually give of themselves, to aid 'all creatures' in distress. Thank you each one."

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■ MID-TERM INTERVIEW: Millions in investment at little cost

Badawey proud of accomplishments

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Progression has found a home in Port Colborne.

Though it hasn't been all smooth sailing, the lakeside city has made significant strides over the past few years in infrastructure improvements, economic investment and the fight for equitable access to health care, says Mayor Vance Badawey.

Two years into this four-year term, Badawey reflects on the city's past progress and touches on work still needed to be done.

One of the city's biggest accomplishments is the more than \$65 million in infrastructure investments seen over the past four years with little to no impact on taxpayers, Badawey says. The city has benefited from funding from the federal, provincial and regional levels of government.

This has allowed Port Colborne to leverage its worth in a short period of time, he says.

That funding included the sale of Port Colborne Hydro Inc.'s leased assets to Canadian Niagara Power for \$15.6 million, which was finalized in spring 2012.

"We had the opportunity to rebuild the community," he says, referring to the reconstruction of Main St., construction

of the Vale Health and Wellness Centre and the various community improvement plans the city has underway.

"We have a robust menu of incentives that investors can take advantage of," he says, adding a mix of business and lifestyle assets have been created to make Port Colborne look that much more appealing.

"We've become a very attractive place to live, work and play in."

Economic investment will continue to be a main focus for Port Colborne in the new year.

The establishment of the Gateway Economic Centre and Zone Strategy at the regional level builds on Port Colborne's and Niagara's economic assets and is a major component of Niagara's overall economic strategy, Badawey says.

"Despite recent economic challenges, we still have a solid manufacturing base supported by significant road, rail, marine and air infrastructure and an educated work force," he adds.

One issue that has, however, plagued the city in recent years is a lack of access to health-care services.

"Health care is and continues to be our No. 1 priority," Badawey says, adding the city is taking it upon itself to "address health care in a way no other municipality has."

SEE PORT COLBORNE | page 15

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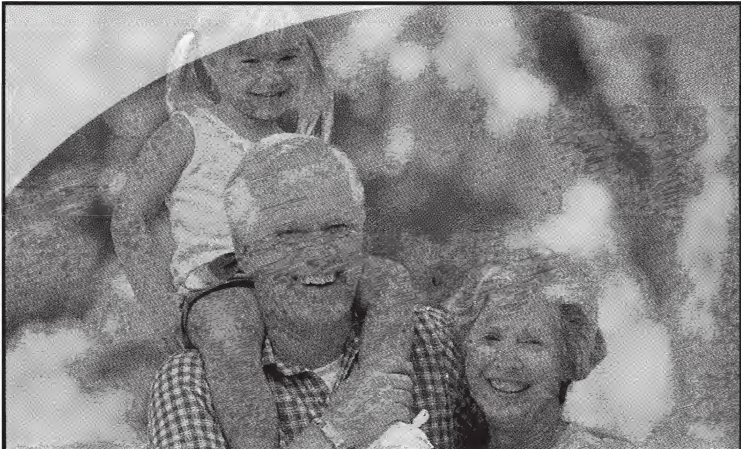
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■ PORT COLBORNE

Cit rewarded for health-care delivery methods

FROM PAGE 12

Port Colborne has become a leader in developing new and innovative health-care delivery methods, he says, with the city even rewarded for its efforts by the Rural Ontario Medicine Program.

"We're going to continue to fight for equitable access to health care in south Niagara."

Whether it's a one-, five- or 10-year fight, Port Colborne is "in it for the long haul."

Moving forward, Port Colborne and its southern-tier partners, through South Niagara Health Care Corp., plan to ensure gaps left in the final report by Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith will be addressed, Badway says.

The plan, he says, is to also ensure recommendations are submitted to Health Minister Deb Matthews that establish critical care pathways in south Niagara based on best practice standards.

"It's all about the attitude.

Rolling up your sleeves and getting the job done. Dealing with the task at hand and taking the team approach.

"Where we've been and where we're going is all about 'us,'" Badway says of his Port Colborne team that has helped the city make strides in a number of sectors in recent years.

"It's about the public and private sectors of the community working together toward common goals."

*maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @mfrth17rbune*

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Port Colborne drainage superintendent and engineering assistant Henri Bernemeyer, Mayor Vance Badway, engineering and operations director Ron Hanson and engineering services manager Jim Huppenen look over development plans at Port Colborne city hall.



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BIG BUILDING SALE - THIS IS A LIMITED TIME OFFER! YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS! 20x20 \$3,985. 25x24 \$4,595. 30x36 \$8,955. 35x48 \$11,200. 40x52 \$15,100. 47x70 \$18,265. One End wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-800-665-5422. www.pioneersteel.ca

STEEL BUILDINGS/METAL BUILDINGS 60% OFF! 20x28, 30x40, 40x62, 45x90, 50x120, 60x160, 80x100 sell for balance owed! Call 1-800-457-2206 www.crownsteelbuildings.ca

SKILLED HELP WANTED
MOVE WEST GO TO WORK IMMEDIATELY! Door Pro is a full service residential, commercial garage door company located in Surrey BC. We are looking for EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL SERVICE & INSTALLATION people. Truck, tools, uniform provided, \$25-\$35/hr. 3 years experience, a great attitude, sense of humour, excellent customer service skills. Be part of our company's success. 1-888-535-4940, email mike - mikep@doorpro.ca, www.doorpro.ca

FINANCIAL SERVICES
MoneyProvider.com. \$500 Loan and No Credit Refused. Fast Easy, 100% Success. 1-877-776-1660.

FOR SALE
#1 HIGH SPEED INTERNET \$28.95 / Month! Absolutely no ports are blocked. Unlimited Downloading. Up to 5Mbps Download and 800Kbps Upload. ORDER TODAY AT www.aceniac.ca or CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-866-281-3538.

SAWMILLS from only \$3997 - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com/4000T 1-800-569-8899 EXT.4000T.

1000 ISLAND AIRBOATS - Trevel ice, snow, water in heated comfort, 4 models to choose from, Transport Canada certified. More info at www.airboats.ca OR CALL TOLL-FREE 1-866-AIRBOAT (1-866-247-2826).

DRIVERS WANTED
LAIDLAW CARRIERS VAN DIVISION require experienced AZ licensed drivers to run the U.S. Premium mileage rate. Home weekly. New equipment. Also hiring Owner Operators. 1-600-283-8287

WANTED
WANTED: OLD TUBE AUDIO EQUIPMENT, 40 years or older. Amplifiers, Stereo, Recording and Theatre Sound Equipment. Hammond organs. Any condition, no floor model consoles. Call Toll-Free 1-800-947-6393 / 519-853-2157.

EMPLOYMENT OPPS.
PYRAMID CORPORATION is now hiring! Instrument Technicians and Electricians for various sites across Alberta. Send resume to: hr@pyramidcorporation.com or fax 780-952-HIRE.

FARM LABOURER & MANAGER
Full-time position, modern, mixed farm, near Calgary, Alberta. Housing supplied, excellent wages. Valid driver's licence, & cow/calf experience required. Assets include mechanics, grain, welding, custom hay & seeding. Fax resume 403-335-0088. Phone 403-335-3094.

NEED A CHANGE? Looking for work? www.dreamscarethefuture.ca in the Provolet region, workers of all kinds are needed now! Visit our website today for more information.

JOURNEYMAN AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN Henne Chrysler Ltd (Hanna, Alberta) needs a few more good people. Busy, modern shop. \$25 - \$31/hour + bonus, benefits. Great community. Inquire or send resume. Fax 403-454-2845. Email Chrysler@totuplanet.net

ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL trainees needed! Large & small firms need accounting & payroll professionals! No experience? Local career training & job placement available! 1-888-424-9417.

HELP WANTED
ATTENTION: LOCAL PEOPLE NEEDED! Work at home, online, RPT or FIT. We train! Call Dagmar: 1-888-309-9312

VACATION/TRAVEL
HAWAII ON THE MAINLAND, healthy low-cost living can be yours! Modern Arenal Maleku Condominiums, 24/7 secured Community, Costa Rica "friendliest country on earth" 1-780-952-0709. www.CanTo.ca

AUTOMOTIVE
Vehicle buyers are ONLY protected by OMVIC and Ontario consumer protection laws when they buy from registered dealers. There's no protection if you buy privately and you risk becoming victim of a cutbinder. To verify dealer registration or seek help with a complaint: www.omvic.on.ca or 1-800-943-6002.

PERSONALS
ARE YOU STILL SINGLE? Time for New Year's Resolution. Discover the reason MISTY RIVER INTRODUCTIONS has been around 15 years. Quality singles, careful screening, individual service. CALL (416)777-8302, (705)734-1292. www.mistyrivertrot.com

TRUE PSYCHICS 4 Answers call now 24/7 Toll Free 1-877-342-3038; Mobile #4488; <http://http://www.truepsychics.ca>

DATING SERVICE Long-term/short-term relationships, free to try! 1-877-297-9883. Talk with single ladies. Call #7878 or 1-888-534-6994. Text now 1-888-311-9540 or #2015. Meet local single ladies. 1-877-904-5381. (16+)

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The Healthy Cupboard

PORT COLBORNE

101 CLARENCE STREET
(across from Food Basics)

905 **835.9806**

FONTHILL

111 #20 EAST
(Across from Sobeyes)

905 **892.9054**

GARCINIA CAMBOGIA

Garcinia Cambogia is a yellowish, pumpkin-shaped superfruit found in Asia and Africa that has been used traditionally by many cultures for centuries to address inflammation, gastrointestinal distress, hemorrhoids, rheumatism, women's menstrual issues, and many digestive issues. Commonly known as "gamboge," "brindal berry," or "Malabar Tamarind," the rind of the Garcinia Cambogia fruit contains potent natural compounds that support healthy weight management by supporting appetite control, disrupting fat production, supporting fat metabolism, and promoting healthy insulin function. Some Asian cultures also use Garcinia Cambogia in their traditional curries and other popular dishes because they believe that the sour flavor of the fruit is what activates and supports the digestive system.



PURE MORINGA

Genesis Today's 100% pure Moringa is a nutrient-rich extract obtained from the leaves of the Moringa Oleifera tree nicknamed the "Miracle Tree." This resilient tree grows up to 39 feet high and is considered the most nutritious and useful tree in the world. Having used the tree's leaves and pods as a tea, in cooking, and in traditional medicine for centuries, Moringa is one of Asia and Africa's best kept secrets for weight control and optimal health. With a high concentration of vitamins, minerals, amino acids, fatty acids, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory compounds, Moringa extract provides extraordinary nutrients to support healthy weight management, healthy blood sugar, ↑ natural energy, and overall health and longevity.

The Healthy Cupboard

AS SEEN ON DR. OZ

CARALLUMA FIMBRIATA

Genesis Today's 100% pure Caralluma Fimbriata extract is derived from a cactus that grows abundantly in India where it has been consumed raw, seasoned with spices and cooked in traditional Indian dishes for centuries. Nicknamed "The Hunger Buster," this edible cactus is known in its native India as "famine food," because it was eaten during times of famine and on hunting treks for its powerful appetite-suppressing and thirst-quenching qualities. Our supplement contains an exclusive 10:1 (10 to 1) extract of Caralluma Fimbriata, which means it takes 10 pounds of cactus to create one pound of pure powder for 10 times the appetite suppressing power. The potent natural elements in this remarkable Indian cactus help curb food cravings, disrupt fat formation, and support lean muscle mass, making it an excellent addition for a healthy weight loss regimen.



PURE GREEN COFFEE BEAN

Genesis Today's Pure Green Coffee Bean with Svetol® is an especially effective supplement containing two types of raw, unroasted green coffee bean extract for energy and metabolism support: our regular Green Coffee Bean extract plus the brand name ingredient Svetol®. Green Coffee Bean with Svetol® is standardized to contain a potent blend of chlorogenic acids combined with other natural active compounds, which are clinically proven to promote healthy weight control, fat loss, and blood sugar levels that are already within normal range. This combined, polyphenol-rich green coffee bean extract is high in antioxidants and low in caffeine, which supports cardiovascular function and weight management without the jitters associated with overstimulation.



Tanya and Ian Birrell

Owners of
The Healthy
Cupboard

PORT COLBORNE

101 CLARENCE STREET
(across from Food Basics)

905 **835.9806**

TWO LOCATIONS!

NEW WEBSITE!

www.healthycupboard.ca
healthycupboard@gmail.com

FONTHILL

111 #20 EAST
(Across from Sobeyes)

905 **892.9054**

**WELLAND/FONTHILL/
THOROLD**

**WELLAND CENTENNIAL
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
240 Thorold Road West, Welland
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**THOROLD
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
50 Ormond St. North, Thorold
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**E.L. CROSSLEY
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
350 Highway #20, Fonthill
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**EASTDALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
170 Wallington Street, Welland
Thursday, January 17, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

NIAGARA FALLS

**WESTLANE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
5960 Pitton Road, Niagara Falls
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**STAMFORD COLLEGIATE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
5775 Drummond Road, Niagara Falls
Thursday, January 17, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**A.N. MYER
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
6338 O'Neil Street, Niagara Falls
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

ST. CATHARINES

**ST. CATHARINES
COLLEGIATE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
34 Catharine Street, St. Catharines
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**LAURA SECORD
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
349 Niagara Street, St. Catharines
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
101 Glen Morris Drive, St. Catharines
Monday, January 14, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**GOVERNOR SIMCOE
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
15 Glenview Avenue, St. Catharines
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

EDEN HIGH SCHOOL
535 Lake Street, St. Catharines
Monday, January 14, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**NOT SURE WHAT SCHOOL YOUR
STUDENT SHOULD BE ATTENDING?**

SchoolLocator
www.dsbns.org

Our easy-to-use School Locator can help!
Simply visit www.dsbns.org and click on "schools". Type in your address and find the location of your DSBN home school!

WHY VISIT AN OPEN HOUSE?

Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life.

While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? Which school is right for me? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?"

One of the best ways to answer those questions is by visiting a high school open house. There, you and your family will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet the Principal and experience the wide range of different programs offered.

Your high school years are very important to your growth and development. Academically, it's your first real opportunity to take control of your education and your future. In high school, you'll begin to define, shape and pursue all your goals and ambitions. DSBN schools have always maintained an important focus on academics and you'll find a wide range of innovative programming to match your interests and goals.

Join us at a high school open house to see all the programs, supports and accommodations the DSBN has in place to help you become successful in school.

BECOME
Positive
& INDEPENDENT
FOCUSSED
AND SKILLED
open to all possibilities





NEED SOME DIRECTION?

Career Cruising The Complete Guidance System

The Career Cruising website is an important tool that helps students think about their future and develop concrete plans to make sure they are successful in reaching their goals.

Using Career Cruising, students can:

- **Research Careers.** This information will help students make decisions about the types of courses they may be interested in based on their strengths, interests and goals.
- **Choose courses.** Students can select courses online using their school's course calendar.
- **Build a Resume.** Using Career Cruising students can create professional resumes by documenting coursework, extracurricular activities and volunteer experiences.

Your teacher would be happy to tell you more about this program.

WANT HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE?



Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) are programs that help students put a laser-like focus on their learning. These programs allow students to concentrate their education in a specific economic sector and help

prepare them for college, university, apprenticeship or the workplace. SHSMs allow students to gain unique insight into their chosen career path, as well as many industry specific qualifications and certifications.

Currently, the DSBN offers 40 Specialist High Skills Major programs in the following 10 sectors:

- Agriculture
- Arts and Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Energy
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Horticulture
- ICT (Communications)
- Manufacturing
- Transportation

The DSBN offers a wide variety of innovative programs and opportunities to help you shape your future and become the person you want to be.

your **FUTURE** is **HERE!**



www.dsbn.org

USING TECHNOLOGY THAT WORKS FOR THE FUTURE

At the DSBN, we know how important technology is to your life. Smart phones, tablets and many other devices help you to stay connected with friends and family, keep up with current events and so much more.

The DSBN also believes that technology has an important role to play in helping you to become successful in school. That's why our students have access to a wide range of modern learning technology in our schools. Examples include everything from computers to tablets and many other industry specific devices. Ensuring that the learning continues no matter where you are in the school, students can use their own devices to access the internet to collaborate, research and innovate. School libraries have evolved, giving students access to digital tools and media centres. Students can also access online school library resources from any location, at any time.

With support and guidance from our world class staff, students will develop the skills and abilities needed to thrive in today's highly technological, knowledge-based economy.

BECOME
UNIQUE
ADAPTABLE
INSPIRED
and **COMPETENT**
100% authentically You

